

21 December 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Eastern Europe Division/OPC

VIA: Assistant Director for Policy Coordination

FROM: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity"—Current Psychological Attack Against East German Communists

1. Reference is made to the item in the OPC contribution to the Director's Log of 20-21 December which indicates that the "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity" has mailed to two thousand Communist Sympathizers in the Soviet Zone of Germany pamphlets which carry a strong warning based on the theme that there is still time for the pro-Communist East Germans to turn back and mend their ways.

2. I believe that this is a particularly effective form of psychological attack and that it is very timely at the present moment—and I urge that this campaign be pressed home, both by broadening the coverage and by the use of follow-ups on the objects of attack.

3. With respect to the effectiveness of this type of psychological approach, your attention is invited to a memorandum of conversation which I sent to you a few months ago covering a very significant conversation between Mayor Ernst Reuter of Berlin and Mr. Dulles and the Undersigned. In this conversation Mayor Reuter, whose skill and zeal as an anti-Communist battler are too well known to warrant further comment here, emphasized the fact that the German Communists have begun to waiver and are in many instances seeking to take out "reinsurance" against the possibility that they may have to render an accounting of their actions and face up to retribution at the hands of an aroused and enraged German public opinion—in the not too distant future. Mayor Reuter gave point to his remarks in this connection by stating that he was receiving a flow of communications both directly and indirectly from German Communists in the Soviet Zone attempting to call attention to the fact that they individually had never sympathized with the Soviets or German Communists and had never done anything harmful to their fellow Germans. Mayor Reuter observed that this pattern of conduct was very similar to and very reminiscent of the conduct of countless Nazis in the waning months of World War II.

4. With respect to the timeliness of this program, the German Communists are at the present moment in a state of extreme discomfort. No Change in Classification alarm as the result of the success of the Western efforts in the United Nations Assembly to establish a Five Nation Commission to inquire into the possibility of holding free elections in all Germany.

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Russian and satellite opposition to this move was violent but apparently beaten down in the voting yesterday (the voting score was forty-five to six with eight abstentions.) The Soviet Bloc denounced the Commission and declared that the Group would not be admitted into East Germany--but even so, the threat of having the searchlight of inquiry and investigation turned upon them must be giving the East German Communists some serious attacks of indigestion.

5. As stated above, it is for these reasons that I believe we should intensify and broaden this particular campaign and also consider what other media we have at our disposal to work on various aspects of this matter. For example, practically all media (overt as well as covert—radio and newspapers, pamphlets, etc.) should be instructed and encouraged to plug the line that the day is coming, and not far off, when the actions of the East German Communists will be exposed to examination and investigation. Specific reference to the United Nations' action should be constantly made in these emissions. I have called these points to the attention of Mr. Barrett's office in the State Department and suggest that you have Mr. Lloyd communicate with our friends in New York along similar lines. In your communication to Germany you should make two additional specific recommendations, viz. a) that Radio Rias be requested to hammer hard on the United Nations' action and its significance; and b) in the follow-up and future communications to specific East German Communists, they should be told that they must "purge" themselves by acts—that mere words will be insufficient—to entitle them at a later time to be regarded as truly repentant sinners who have "worked their way home."

FRANK G. WISNER